

Tale Feathers

August 2001

Volume 68
Number 3

Notes from the President

This has been a busy summer for our chapter. Loosing board members is never easy but the remaining board is picking up the pace in their absence. Congratulations to Anne Bolte for taking over as the new editor for Talefeathers. Look forward to an evolving newsletter over the next year. In fact, that is one of the first changes our membership will notice. The Board of Directors is going to test the waters of sending out 10 newsletters instead of six. We hope that will keep an open communication with our members.

Also new to our chapter will be adding more membership meetings. The Board of Directors and I are pleased to announce the Audubon Speaker Series. These general membership meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. We hope to put our membership in touch with the wonderful resources available in our community.

Finally, our Field Trip committee is also adding two bird walks with handicap accessibility. One walk in the fall and one in the spring have been designed for the physically challenged. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters.

I look forward to seeing our membership at the upcoming events planned by our volunteers on the Board of Directors. Check out the tear out calendar in this newsletter for the list of planned events.

Keep Cool,
and Have a Safe Summer!
-Mary



Transitions on SLAS Board of Directors

It is with understanding and acceptance that the Board of St. Louis Audubon announces the resignation of our Treasurer, Doyle Banks and our newsletter editor, Ellen McCallie.

The time constraints of career and family place demands on all of our time. Such is the case with these two members of the Audubon Family. Doyle is a busy professor of accounting as well as a proprietor of Wild Bird Marketplace in Manchester. Ellen's duties with the Missouri Botanical Garden are taking her to responsibilities outside the U.S.

The Board of Directors wishes Ellen and Doyle much success in their future professional endeavors.

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St. Louis Audubon Society

Volunteers Needed:

Hospitality Chair person to plan Chapter Annual picnic, Holiday Open House and Annual meeting. Contact Mary Dueren for details. Phone evenings: 314-576-1473 or email mdueren@swbell.net.

Urgent!!!

Newsletter prep needed for mailing out our chapter's newsletter. Evenings with snacks and beverages provided.

Contact Mary Dueren or any board member. This involves putting labels on the newsletters, sorting and other minor tasks.

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 3,000 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Anne Bolte edits the newsletter.

The deadline for the September issue is August 10. Please send articles, events and letters to Anne.

E-mail ambolte@swbell.net
phone 314.832.0938
post 6939 Sharp
St. Louis, MO 63116

Conservation Report

Sue Gustafson

I'm pleased to serve St. Louis Audubon Society as the new Vice President, Conservation, and I look forward to providing our members with a bi-monthly update on conservation issues of interest to Audubon via this newsletter.

In April, I represented SL Audubon at two different meetings in Jefferson City sponsored by the Mo. Department of Conservation. On April 6-7, we were invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Conservation Focus.

Numerous statewide interests were represented, ranging from hunters, trappers, and anglers to an impressive turnout of statewide Audubon chapters who emphasized the importance of conservation of non-game bird species. Breakout sessions were held with division heads, and I gleaned some impressive information from both the Education and Natural History divisions. The Natural History division provides a report of its biodiversity activities that is available on-line at

www.conservation.state.mo.us/nathis/bioreport/, in addition to administering the Missouri Natural Heritage Program which contains information about the abundance, distribution, condition and needs of species of conservation concern and high quality natural communities. The Species of Concern Checklist is also available, which includes forms on how to report sightings of rare plants and animals. On April 21, St. Louis Audubon participated in the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) workshop which laid the groundwork for establishing the state's implementation of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. This promising endeavor will deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnerships. More specific information on how members of St. Louis Audubon can assist in MoBCI will be provided as the implementation further progresses.

St. Louis Audubon has been a long-time supporter of passage of CARA (Conservation and Reinvestment Act, which replaced Teaming with Wildlife), the most significant investment Congress has ever considered for wildlife, open spaces, and outdoor recreation. Despite not getting approved in the 106th Congress, CARA has been reintroduced in the 107th Congress as H.R. 701. There are some new materials on the wildlife elements of CARA that can be downloaded as PDF files on the Teaming with Wildlife web site www.teaming.com/update.htm, specifically a CARA overview, CARA bill summary, and a Teaming with Wildlife newsletter which explains the current status of CARA and how to help. Thriving wildlife and natural places require reliable, dedicated, long-term conservation funding that meets the needs of critical programs to protect our nation's wild places and biodiversity.

Support Your Local Sanctuary

Mitch Leachman

What is just 45 minutes from downtown St Louis, over 8000 acres, and vital habitat for bald eagles, snow geese, wood ducks, and the federally threatened decurrent false aster?

The answer, Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), straddles the Illinois River just outside of Grafton, Illinois. It can be easily reached by a short drive along the River Road or via the Golden Eagle Ferry and then a scenic tour through lower Calhoun County. As part of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, that stretches over 300 miles along the Mississippi River, Two Rivers provides a vital stopover for migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors along the Mississippi River Flyway. Even with excellent opportunities for wildlife observation, it has gone virtually unnoticed. With few visitors, you can wander at your leisure and experience the solitude of a remote sanctuary just a short trip from home.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) manages Two Rivers, and all other units of the NWR System, under federal guidelines that make conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants the primary objective. This has created a nationwide network of true sanctuaries unrivaled throughout the world in size and scope of wildlife protection. Also, this sets the Refuge System apart from other federal lands where recreation, hunting, and resource extraction compete with wildlife for resources and habitat. However, the strong conservation focus has inadvertently discouraged public access and interpretive facilities, which in turn help foster a public ignorant of the value and beauty of the refuge system. Lacking an involved and supportive public, federal funding of the Refuge System has been reduced and USF&WS resources have been shifted to other responsibilities. The maintenance backlog alone has been estimated at \$1.6 billion.

With the threat of resource limitations adversely impacting wildlife, many refuges throughout the country have looked to volunteers at their local Audubon chapters for assistance. Some assistance has been provided to Two Rivers over the years by a small Illinois group, called Great Rivers Audubon. However, the needs at the refuge have grown and now outpace the available volunteers. We believe our chapter has people just waiting for an opportunity to make a difference, and Two Rivers can be that opportunity.

Preliminary discussions with the Two Rivers' Staff have uncovered two immediate needs:

- Person(s) with a talent for public relations to update and revise refuge visitor brochures
- Person(s) with an interest in landscaping to design/implement a grounds plan for the visitor center

Also, a work day is being planned this fall for the Gilbert Lake area and will include trash pickup, trail maintenance, habitat restoration for the decurrent false aster, and hopefully the installation of bird boxes.

Other needs of the refuge that could become the focus of future projects include:

- Planting of trees for wildlife habitat, soil stabilization and beautification
- Construction of overlook and interpretive areas for public access and education
- Update of refuge bird checklist
- Staffing of visitor center on weekends

If you are among the many that have not yet visited the refuge, it really is worth a trip (directions and information can be found at <http://midwest.fws.gov/marktwain>, and click on Two Rivers NWR). If you are interested in assisting the Two Rivers staff in their conservation mission through any of the projects mentioned above, please contact Mitch Leachman online at cheyenneandme@aol.com or by phone at (314) 739-5112. Please watch the newsletter and website for further details on these exciting volunteer opportunities.

You are Invited to:
**A Wildlife and Birding Safari
to South Africa**
October 20 - 30, 2001

A wildlife safari is the most exciting adventure of a lifetime! Don't miss this one. Join us in "their" spring. We use expert local guides, a relaxed pace, and budget costs. All air fare from the United States is included in group rates.

Ken Newman is perhaps the best known South African bird guide and field guide artist/author. With Ken we visit three private game reserves : Mala Mala adjacent to Kruger National Park; Ndumo; and Hluhluwe. Each has different habitat to ensure the largest number of birds and mammals are found. Two internal flights are included to save travel time between game reserves.

Southern Africa has a bird list that exceeds 900 species and over 100 of these birds are endemic. Many of these endemic species are found in the Cape Town area. An optional four day extension is offered to experience this scenic Cape area. We explore along the coast to the Cape of Good Hope, visit several major nature reserves including Cape Point NR and Rondebosch NR, the West Coast NP, and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Included are two pelagic boat trips to Robben Island and Duiker Island.

On our last trip we viewed over 320 species of birds and about 45 species of mammals including the Big Five up close and personal!

FOR ITINERARIES OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
PAUL BAUER at 314-921-3972
ALSO SEE OUR WEB SITE:
www.stlouisaudubon.org



BIRD WITH THE EXPERTS

Experience a bird's eye view of the world under the expert wing of Paul Bauer on one of St. Louis Audubon Society's many exciting birding expeditions to Africa:

BIRD SOUTH AFRICA in the spring with Ken Newman, renowned ornithologist and author, October 20-30, 2001. Bird in open vehicles in Hluhluwe, Ndumo and Mala Mala private game reserves. An optional extension is also available to Cape Town.

BIRD TANZANIA February 28-March 10, 2002 and experience the greatest thrill in all of Africa: the miracle of the migration in the Serengeti at its peak. Escorted by expert birder and perennial favorite Francis Kitayi, you can expect to see over 300 species of birds while also visiting Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater and Oldupai Gorge.

BIRD KENYA in June 2002 on a budget classic birding safari. Francis Kitayi will also be by your side as you experience exciting birding and wildlife viewing in Samburu, Lake Nakuru, and the legendary Maasi Mara. Extensions available to Tanzania and Western Kenya.

FOR ITINERARIES OR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Paul Bauer at (314) 921-3972



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No more Excuses - *Get Birdin'*

By Jim Malone

Each year in July, the St. Louis Audubon Society board of directors meets to build a calendar of events for the coming 12 months. This August newsletter contains that calendar. Be certain you don't lose this one, it's filled with lots of great birding outings for all. This year we are offering a number of birdwalks to favorite St. Louis area locations, some popular repeat events, and two out-of-town trips for those of you who want longer outings.

August 25 (Saturday) Shorebird Stroll, 7:30 AM Our first birding trip of the new calendar will be an August trip to try and catch up with Fall shorebird migration. This trip will begin at Horseshoe Lake State Park in Southern Illinois, then we will search the area for the best in shorebird habitat, and caravan our way through Southern Illinois to Riverlands or possibly to the Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge. The exact course we will take will be determined by the best habitat. This trip will include little walking, but we will be standing for extended periods of time if we find good shorebird areas to investigate. To get to the meeting point, go east from St. Louis on I-70 across the Poplar Street Bridge. Follow I-70 to the exit for highway 111 and turn left. Proceed North on highway 111 about 2 miles to Horseshoe Lake State Park. We will meet at the first parking lot on the right side of the road.

September 8 (Saturday) Fall Bird Quest, 8 AM The Fall bird quest is another new feature of the bird trip list for 2001. On this trip, we will meet at Tower Grove Park in downtown St. Louis to search for migrating passerines. After our time here, we will caravan to the best seasonal habitats for passerines, shorebirds, and waterfowl. This will be an all day event so be certain to bring a lunch and something to drink. This trip will include some walking at Tower Grove Park and other sites, but all will be flat areas and easy paces. To get to Tower Grove Park take I-40 or I-44 east to Kingshighway. Go South (right) on Kingshighway to Magnolia Avenue. Turn left on Magnolia and travel to the stoplight at Tower Grove Ave. Turn right into the park, then take the first drive on the right. Drive past the tennis courts and stables, and we will meet at the Gaddy Bird Garden in the Northwest corner of the park.

September 22 (Saturday) Carlyle Lake Pelagic, 7 AM This is one of our most popular events each year. This year, Dan Kassebaum will be traveling with us sharing his expertise and intimate knowledge of the lake. We will bird the woods in the morning looking for migrating passerines, then embark on the pelagic portion of our trip. Bring a lunch for this trip and we will eat on the lake. After patrolling the lake, we will move to the North end and visit parking lot # 3 to search for shorebirds and waterfowl. Parts of this trip may include strenuous walking, but there will be alternate paths for those who don't want that much activity. If you are interested in taking part in our pelagic, contact Jim Malone at stlaud@inlink.com or call at (636) 536-1119 to make a reservation. The cost for this trip is not set yet, but it will probably be in the \$15-20 per person.

This is just a taste of the great walks we have planned for the 2001-2002 calendar. This winter we will be offering a trip to Minnesota for a real taste of winter birding (buy your long underwear now), and next Spring we will be offering the Prairie Chicken trip once again. If you haven't seen booming Greater Prairie Chickens in Missouri, you really ought to consider this trip - it's very special.

In addition to our regular outings, we will be offering three birding trips (November 10th at Riverlands Environmental Demonstration area, March 9th at Busch Conservation Area, and Sunday, May 12th at Forest Park) in the St. Louis area which are tailored to wheelchair-bound birders. These trips will visit the best birding areas for the time of year and should be enjoyed by all. Look for details of these special walks in upcoming editions of Tale Feathers.

Master Naturalist Certificate

In cooperation with the St. Louis Audubon Society, the St. Louis Community College at Meramec through the Biology Department and the Continuing Education division proposes to offer a Master Naturalist Certificate Program. The program would consist of three main components:

1. Three core academic courses:

Conservation and Ecology (BIO:117)

Field Botany (BIO:119)

Field Zoology (BIO:120)

2. Three elective academic courses to be chosen from:

Marine Biology (BIO:144)

Field Experience in Marine Biology (BIO:145)

Desert Ecology (BIO:146)

Field Experience in Desert Ecology (BIO:147)

Ozark Ecology

Field Experience in Ozark Ecology

Introduction to Geology (GEO:102)

Introduction to Astronomy (PSI:111)

Meteorology (PSI:123)

3. Six elective workshops offered through Continuing Education. This semester's workshops include a fall butterfly identification by the **St. Louis Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association**; snakes, turtles and lizards by the **St. Louis Herpetological Society**; backyard bird habitat and more by the **Webster Groves Nature Study Society**; how to lead a nature walk (for any group or society) by the St. Louis Audubon Society; migrating fall birds by the **St. Louis Audubon Society**; identifying Missouri grasses by the **Missouri Native Plant Society**.

The workshops range in length from one night to four nights plus one or two field trips. If you are interested in the Master Naturalist Certificate come to our Open House at Meramec Community College at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2001 to learn about this exciting new educational and fun opportunity in our community. Meet some of the instructors, find out about the different societies and their membership goals and sign up if you are interested in one or more of the topics. Refreshments will be available.

For location at MCC or for more information please call Vicki Flier at 314-968-9166.

Workshop topics will change each semester.

For a schedule of classes please call 314-984-7777.

After successful completion of these three components, Master Naturalist Certificates would be awarded. These educated and trained Master Naturalists would then be able to share their knowledge through volunteer and professional opportunities at nature and green facilities in the greater St. Louis area and receive recognition awards from the St. Louis Audubon Society.

Enjoy Life! Go Birding !!

St. Louis Audubon Society 2001-2002 Calendar of Events

General membership meetings will be held most third Tuesdays of the month featuring the Audubon Speaker Series.

Special general membership meetings are scheduled for:

Oct 14. Annual Picnic
Nov 17 Fall Birding Festival
Dec 2 Holiday Open House
Feb 8 Joint mtg WGNSS
May 4 Spring Birding Festival

Newsletter Deadlines: Please submit newsletter articles to the newsletter editor Anne Bolte (phone: 314-832-0938 or email ambolte@swbell.net) on the tenth of the month with the exception of May and June.

The Board of directors meet on the First Tuesday of the Month.
Calendar Planning is scheduled for July 9, 2002.

Bird Walks and Trips: Meet at the designated site. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Dress for field conditions/season. Coaching and instruction provided for all skill levels. See monthly newsletter for updates. Call Jim Malone: 636-536-1119 or Paul Bauer 314-921-3972.

| Day/Date | Time | Place |
|------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Sat 8/25 | 800am | Horseshoe Lake |
| Sat 9/8 | 800am | Tower Grove Park |
| Sat 9/22 | 730am | Carlyle Pelagic* |
| Sat 9/29 | 800am | Riverlands |
| Sat 10/6 | 800am | Two Rivers NWR |
| Sun 10/21 | 800am | Horseshoe Lake SP |
| Sat 11/10 | 800am | Riverlands @ |
| Sun 11/18 | 800am | Horseshoe Lake SP |
| Sat 12/8 | 100pm | Riverlands |
| Sat 01/05 | 900am | Horseshoe Lake SP |
| Wed 1/23 thru Sun 1/27 | | Minnesota Trip TBA |
| Sat 2/9 | 900am | Riverlands |
| Sat 3/9 | 800am | Busch |
| Sun 3/17 | 800am | Horseshoe Lake SP |
| Sun 4/7 | 600pm | Busch |
| Fri 4/12 thru Sat 4/13 | | Sedalia MO trip |
| Sun 4/28 | 730 am | S.I.L Trip* |
| Sun 5/5 | 730 am | Tower Grove |
| Sun 5/12 | 800am | Kennedy Woods@ |
| Sat 5/18 | 730am | RT. 66 SP |
| Sat 6/8 | 730 am | Lost Valley Trail |

*denotes all day trip

@ denotes handicap assistance

St. Louis Audubon Society 2001 - 2002

St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: 314-822-6595

Officers

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| President - Mary Dueren | 314-576-1473 |
| VP Education - Vicki Flier | 314-968-9166 |
| VP Conservation - Sue Gustafson | 314-968-8128 |
| VP Finance - John Solodar | 314-862-5294 |
| Treasurer - Mary Dueren | 314-576-1473 |
| Secretary - Mary Smidt | 636-227-6127 |

Board Members

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| Tom Day | 314-962-4064 |
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St. Louis Audubon Society

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St. Louis Audubon Society Membership Form

Audubon is a membership organization dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Our members are the source of our volunteer strength and the foundation of our financial support. By becoming a member, you will receive National Audubon Society's magazine as well as the St. Louis Audubon Society newsletter, *Tale Feathers*.

Membership category desired:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introductory / \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual / \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Citizen / \$21 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Citizen Family / \$23 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family / \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining / \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting / \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other () |

Send a check made out to:

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P.O. Box 220227

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Please support your local chapter. Use this form to join or renew.